

INTIMATIONS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED
CHRISTMAS CONFECTIONERY.

JUST RECEIVED.

CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS, CHOCO-
LATE CREAMS, BURNT ALMONDS,
AND
SUNDAY SWEETS,
ALSO,ROSE WATER & OTHER CRACKERS
IN GREAT VARIETY.NEW SEASONS,
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS,
INCLUDING SOMECHROMOS OF SWISS AND HOME
SCENERY,
SUITABLE FOR FRAMING.NEW ILLUSTRATED PHOTOGRAPHIC
ALBUMS.A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 13th December, 1887.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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TELEPHONE NO. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 19TH, 1887.

In view of the fact, which seems only too apparent, that the small-pox epidemic is still continuing, it would be interesting, and perhaps reassuring, for the public to learn what the Government propose to do to arrest the further progress of the disease. The foreign residents are very generally taking the precaution of being re-vaccinated, and some among them are adopting other measures to escape infection, but, in spite of all precautions many foreigners have been stricken by the disease, notably officers of coasting steamers. Meanwhile the epidemic rages with great severity among the Chinese, and the mortality among the younger patients is very great. The figures we are unable to give, and possibly their production would do no good, since the community are thoroughly aware of the presence of the evil and the serious nature of the outbreak. Nevertheless we fail to see that any good can be done by withholding from the *Gazette* the usual weekly mortality returns. That is more calculated to alarm than to reassure, for timid persons are always apt to exaggerate the unknown. Much can therefore be gained by defining or suppressing these statistics. That the mortality is very great, infinitely greater in proportion than that attending the scarlet fever epidemic in London, is sufficiently well known already, and the general belief is that the disease is growing more fatal. If this be not the case it would be better to refute it by the publication of daily returns of cases and deaths in the newspapers, as is done in England in similar circumstances.

But what we are more immediately concerned with, is to know whether the Government propose to remove the small-pox patients to St. Peter's Island or to some place in the outskirts of the city. The existing arrangement of housing them in the centre of Victoria, close to the Civil Hospital, is undoubtedly injudicious both as tending to spread infection and also as being unfair to patients in that institution. Manifestly the small-pox hospital should be temporary structures located as far as convenient from any centre of population, and should be burned when done with. The Government have taken one wise step in an endeavour to secure a supply of lymph for vaccination straight from the calf, and it is to be hoped that they are also making vaccination as accessible as possible to the Chinese residents. We are glad to note that the Alice Memorial Hospital Authorities are offering free vaccination, which will no doubt be extensively availed of. Are the Government doing the same? Are they taking any precautions to stay the spread of the disease? Are they pushing forward the scheme for the provision of a public laundry—an institution sorely needed at the present juncture? Are they doing anything to enforce fumigation of dwellings, disinfection of clothes, and arrest of transport of patients in public vehicles? All these matters may be best thoroughly looked after, but the public would like to know that every reasonable precaution is being taken to stop the spread of the unpleasant disease in this colony, and much might no doubt be made known were the proceedings of the Sanitary Board only opened to the Press. But although the desirability of such publicity has been generally conceded, the meetings are still held with closed doors, and the half-minutes of the proceedings published long after the event in the pages of the *Government Gazette* reveal little of what really goes on. There is no need to wait for the reconstitution of the Board in order to throw open its discussions. His Excellency the Governor has expressed himself opposed to red tape and to unnecessary reserve on public affairs, and we trust he will see fit in some way to relieve the anxiety of the public on matters so closely affecting their well-being and the public health.

Since writing the above we have seen the Government notification, published on our front page, from which it is satisfactory to learn that instructions have been issued to the Chinese washermen for the disinfestation of all clothes sent to their establishments, a very necessary measure which will tend to remove a great deal of uncleanliness, hitherto felt in reference to the washing of linen.

The British steamer *Carisbrooke*, which arrived here yesterday from Singapore, was ordered to quay-side, these being stoppages on board.

The Shanghai *Yih-wei Loh* says that a British firm has contracted with the Chinese Government for the supply of \$200,000 worth of guns and ammunition.

The Agent informs us that the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Sophia*, with the next outward French mail, left Saigon at 3 a.m. yesterday.

The Agent (Messrs. Batterfield & Swire) inform us that the Ocean Steamship Company's steamer *Prinsep*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on Tuesday for this port.

The Agent's (Messrs. David Sasoon, Sons & Co.) inform us that the steamer *Palma* (in place of the steamer *Japan*), from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port yesterday.

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A Shanghai native paper states that the New-chow, Chia-ko, and Shanghai export trade in sugar goods from Amoy has not been unprofitable, but that the first season's losses gave a profit to the Chinese dealer, the losses on subsequent shipments averaged \$10 a picul.

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His Excellency Senator Thomas de Souza is expected home-to-day from Macao by the river steamer *Kinting*. He will proceed to Shanghai by the French mail steamer.

We understand that the Committee of the Choral Society have fixed for Thursday, the 9th February, for the performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta of "The Sorcerer."

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on that he formed his opinion in the present case.

Hong Kung Shing, Inspector in the Police Court, gave evidence as to the entries in certain account books produced, which were found in the hands of the prisoners. The accused were all natives of the Tsim-Sai-Sek, and the majority of the constant entries of passengers and mail. Other books contained the society's oaths, etc.

Two Chinese constables gave evidence as to going to the room and finding it fitted up as described by the Inspector.

The prisoner's defense was that he was a cook in the establishment, and had no connection with the society. One of the Chinese witnesses said he had seen the other man cooking rice.

The prisoner was found not guilty by a majority of five to two.

Lu Aukwok, who was arrested with the last prisoner, was tried on a similar charge, but before another jury, composed of Messrs. C. H. Thompson, E. S. Joseph, C. H. Grace, J. N. T. Blith, J. H. Humby, M. de Souza, and L. Lopes. The result was to the same effect as in the previous case.

The prisoner said the room was used as a meeting place for carpenters, who came there to worship the gods. He was the manager, but had only been in charge a few days, and did not know much about it. The prisoner in the other case was his cook.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty unanimously.

Sentences was deferred.

The sessions will be continued at ten o'clock this morning.

POLICE COURT.

14th January.

BEFORE MR. T. SEROME-SMITH.

EXTENSIVE SEIZURE OF OPIUM.

The case arising out of the large seizure of opium at the harbour on the 14th last, came on for hearing.

Mr. Watson presented on behalf of the Opium Farmer and Mr. Evans appeared for the defendants, the proprietors of the boat. Mr. Webster acted on behalf of the owners of the opium.

Mr. Watson said the charge was brought under Ordinance 22 of 1887, sections 11 and 12. As his client, the Opium Farmer, paid a large sum for the monopoly for the monopoly of preparing and storing opium within this colony. Under the Ordinance 1 of 1884 it is found that persons were infringing the right of the Opium Farmer and in consequence of that Ordinance 22 of 1887 was passed by which touch was kept or supposed to be kept of all opium imported or exported from the colony. The Ordinance does not very strictly the course of procedure for any particular case of exporting, of storing opium within the waters of the colony, and it is found that the Opium Farmer should under all circumstances be made aware of where the opium was, how it came into the colony, and what was being done with it. There were many ways in which attempts were made to evade the Ordinance, and one of these was by taking measures especially for exporting, carrying the opium to the Chinese, and getting it marked and then bringing it back into the colony. In the present case which occurred at Seaford, it is after sundown, there were all the elements for doing, and the evading of the object for which the Ordinance was passed. On that evening a quantity of opium was found in a cargo boat. That opium whether the quantity was large or small, liable to the penalties of the Ordinance.

On board the boat, when the opium was found, it was the cargo boat coming from the other side of the harbour. He went alongside and found they had opium on board, and asked them for their permit, and they showed him the seven permits produced. He asked if they had any other permit, and they said he had not. He then took the cargo boat to the Yau-tai Police Station and the Inspector there took possession of the opium. There were thirty-two chests in all. The chests were not covered in gunny bags as is usual when they are to be exported. The number of the permits was 120.

Cross-examined by Mr. Evans.—I went on board the cargo boat as the agent of the Opium Farmer. I had no warrant. I saw the permits had a chop on them authorizing them to take the opium to the Customs hulk. I know it has been the custom for some time to pay duty on opium on board the hulk. I have not seen the cargo boats returning with the opium. I had instructions to see any permit when the number of the permits do not agree. I received these instructions some weeks ago.

Portmanteau Cordeiro, a clerk in the Imports and Exports office, said it was his duty to issue export permits. No permit was granted to cargo boat No. 124 to carry opium or to store.

George Cameron, P.S., No. 37, said that he was present at Yau-tai on Saturday last the 14th instant, and when he came to him at 10.30 a.m. he gave his name to the Chinese. He made a report to the Inspector in charge, in consequence of which the Inspector gave witness orders to go with the excess officer. They went together to the wharf, where they found the Opium Farmer's launch with a cargo boat in tow. On board the cargo boat was found 32 chests of opium. There were no gunny bags on the boxes, and they were loose and open.

Witness spoke to the Inspector and the excess officer. The Inspector said he had no permit to export. The permit was issued to the Opium Farmer, and he had no warrant.

The following evidence was then taken.—

Chung Tung, excise officer No. 3, said that on 14th instant about 6.30 while cruising about in his boat he saw a cargo boat coming from the other side of the harbour. He went alongside and found they had opium on board, and asked them for their permit, and they showed him the seven permits produced. He asked if they had any other permit, and they said he had not.

Rosy Moon ... 1 Blue Rain ... 2 Piccadilly ... 3 Time, 2 min. 13 sec.

LEGER CUP (presented); value \$—, for Amoy subscription griffins of this and last season.

FORMOSA CUP (presented); value \$15, for all China ponies, weights as per scale; winners of any race at this meeting; 7 lbs. extra; 5 lbs. or more races 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. One mile.

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FORMOSA CUP (presented); value \$15, for all China ponies, weights as per scale; winners of any race at this meeting; 7 lbs. extra; 5 lbs. or more races 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. One mile.

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